

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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EB-07 PC-01 IO-10 /076 W

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R 141615Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 679

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, ECON, NI

SUBJECT: NEW FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SWORN IN:

ANTI-INFLATION TASK FORCE TO BE NAMED

1. HEAD OF STATE BRIGADIER MURTALA RAMAT MUHAMMED ADMINISTERED OATHS OF OFFICE TO HIS NEW FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) AUGUST 13. IN REMARKS TO THE TWENTY-FIVE NEW COMMISSIONERS, MUHAMMED WARNED AGAINST SECTIONAL ATTITUDES AND ASKED HIS NEW CABINET FOR FRANK AND HONEST OPINIONS, POINTEDLY NOTING THAT DECISIONS REACHED BY COUNCIL WOULD BE "COLLECTIVE" RESPONSIBILITY. BRIGADIER MUHAMMED SAID FEC WOULD MAKE DECISIONS AND FORMULATE POLICIES WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATES.

2. MUHAMMED PLACED HIS ADMINISTRATION FOUR-SQUARE BEHIND FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND SAID COUNCIL'S PRIMARY ENERGIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD ITS FULFILLMENT. NEW LEADER TOLD FEC THAT PERMANENT SECRETARIES WOULD NO RPT NO LONGER ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS EXCEPT AT REQUEST OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONERS AND THEN ONLY IN ADVISORY CAPACITY.

(COMMENT: THIS MOVE APPARENT ATTEMPT DEMONSTRATE PREEMINENCE COMMISSIONERS AND LIMIT INFLUENCE OF PERMSECS, WHO UNDER GOWON
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REGIME PLAYED DOMINANT ROLES. CERTAINLY JOE IYALLA WOULD HAVE

FOUND THIS NEW MEASURE DISTASTEFUL.)

3. HEAD OF STATE ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION APPOINT AN ANTI-INFLATION TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY CAUSES OF INFLATION, REVIEW FISCAL POLICIES AND RECOMMEND MEASURES BRING COUNTRY'S "INFLATIONARY TENDENCIES" (TRANSLATION: RAMPANT RISE IN COST OF LIVING) UNDER CONTROL.

COMMENT: APPOINTMENT PANEL STUDY INFLATION IS IN PATTERN ESTABLISHED BY THIS VERY YOUNG ADMINISTRATION, NEW LEADERSHIP ACUTELY AWARE OF PROBLEM AREAS AND WANTS TO DEMONSTRATE TO NIGERIAN PUBLIC ITS GOOD INTENTIONS. GOOD INTENTIONS, STUDY PANELS, AND TASK FORCES, HOWEVER, CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR CONCRETE ACTION AND SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS ONLY FOR LIMITED PERIOD. IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDING SOLUTIONS IS RELATIVELY EASY AND IS PART OF MILITARY OFFICER'S TRAINING, IMPLEMENTING THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND GAINING PUBLIC'S SUPPORT FOR THEM ANOTHER MATTER AND ONE WHICH THIS

ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO FACE.

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